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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/559,455	04/28/2000	Haruo Machida	35.C14455	3832

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EXAMINER

HAILU, TADESSE

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2173

DATE MAILED: 10/03/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/559,455

Applicant(s)
Haruo Machida

Examiner
Tadesse Hailu

Art Unit
2173



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Apr 28, 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-45 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-41 and 43-45 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 42 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). 51 6) ☐ Other:

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DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is in response to the patent application (09/559,455) filed 4/28/2000.
2. Priority is claimed from JP 11-124827 filed 4/30/1999.
3. Information Disclosure Statement is submitted and considered
4. Status of the claims - claims 1-45 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. **Claims 1, 2, 6-11, 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, 41, 44 and 45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Jalalian et al (5,548,722).**

The invention of Jalalian et al ("Jalalian") is generally directed to computerized networks. It is more specifically directed to a system for navigating through a network and accessing desired network services.

Regarding claims 1, 14, 41, Jalalian discloses a block diagram of a networked system 100 in which two or more personal computers 111, 112, etc., are connected by way of respective network interfaces 121, 122, etc., to a network 130. A plurality of user-shared resources 131, 132, etc., are provided on the network 130 for shared use by the plural

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workstations 111, 112, etc. These shared resources can include, but are not limited to, a plurality of laser printers (LP's) 131, 134, 138 and 139. When the user computer require queries the network manager 110 for a specified service, the network manager allocate the requested and available service (network resources 131, 132, etc) to his client, the network manager 110 stores the network shared resources of network 130 on one or more file servers (FS) 132, 135, etc.

Jalalian also discloses a display panel that displays resource availability and provides selection presentation. The resource availability is viewed on the display as an icon image of the resource or device; and a pointing device is used to manipulate or select the displayed image. The display also shows not only what resource are available to the user computer/requester but also the connection to the resources (fig. 7), that is, the combination of graphic icons for each physical device (e.g. 721) coupled by pipes 723 and pipe joints 722 quickly conveys the idea that information can flow only among the connected devices. Furthermore the user display shows the condition state (e.g. connected or not connected) (Fig. 3B) of each resource and their feature or function.

Regarding claims 2, 15, as shown in the display panel (fig. 2A) the icon for each function is a specific icon, wherein the appearance of each icon is also different according to makers (column 9, lines 42-column 10, lines 65).

Regarding claim 6, Jalalian's shared resources can include, but are not limited to, a plurality of laser printers (Fig. 1, #131, 134, 138, 139).

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Regarding claim 7, the network 100 can include other local networks 130. The network manager 110 is a management server, manages all management task, such as allocating resources (column 7, lines 9-26).

Regarding claim 8, Jalalian's network system further includes a plurality of file servers 132, 135. They store all requested resource information (column 6, lines 43-49).

Regarding claim 9, Jalalian's network system further includes a plurality of workstations/PC 111, 112 for acquiring information from the network (column 6, lines 36-44).

Regarding claim 10, Jalalian's network system further includes a table (3B) (a predetermined data structure) for the resource information (column 16, lines 15-19).

Regarding claim 11, Jalalian's network system further discloses that the resource includes various icon image data for displaying (column 13, lines 19-column 15, lines 4).

Regarding claims 28, 44 and 45, Jalalian's network system 100 performs data communication with plural user-shared resources or devices 131, 132, 111, 112 connected with a data communication link or path (fig. 7). Jalalian's network system 100 further includes a display control that displays these user-shared resources (Figs. 2A, 2B). Again, the image of the data communication path and the icon it connects are shown in Fig. 7. Jalalian also describes the state or status of the resource device whether it is connected or not connected to other device (Fig. 3B).

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7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. **Claims 3, 16, 23, and 29-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jalalian et al (5,548,722) in view of Kung et al (5,742,286).**

Regarding claims 3, 16, 23, 29, 33, 34, Jalalian shows a plurality of resource icons and their condition states (Fig. 3B). In fig. 6, highlighting a resource icon which is a temporarily changing of the appearance status of the icon is shown. But arbitrary combination of the icons for the respective function displayed on the display unit is not explicitly shown. However, Kung which is related to Jalalian discloses a method for user manipulation of objects in the interface. Kung further discloses the above limitation (see Fig. 2G). Fig. 2G also shows different pattern in displaying the status of the icon which is different than other non selected icons (column 7, lines 48-60). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to incorporate the visual combination mechanism shown in Fig. 2G, thus user will be able to achieve composite function by transferring one device to another device (via drag and drop) as shown in Fig. 2B. Achieving a composite feature just by dragging and dropping and icon device is a an enhancement to Jalalian system.

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Regarding claim 30, as shown in the display panel (fig. 2A) the icon for each function is a specific icon, wherein the appearance of each icon is also different according to makers (Jalalian: column 9, lines 42-column 10, lines 65).

Regarding claims 31, 32, Jalalian discloses a plurality of user-shared resources 131, 132, etc., that are provided on the network. These user-shared resources can include, but are not limited to, a plurality of printers. In addition to a printer, claims 31 and 32 call for scanner and digital copying machine, fax machine and modem and visually connected with a communication path on the display. Jalalian does only show a visually displayed connection between a printer and other resources and user computer (Fig. 7). However, Official notice is taken that it is well known also as suggested by Jalalian (fig. 7, column 6, lines 36-43) to visually provide other shared resource including scanner, fax machine, digital camera and modem. Thus, due to a plurality of shared resource connection to the network 100, a plurality of services will be provided by the network 100.

9. **Claims 4, 5, 12, 13, 17-20, 24, 25-27, 35-40 and 43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jalalian et al (5,548,722) in view of Ahearn et al (5,926,463).**

Regarding claims 4, 5, 17, 18, 24, 25, 29, 36, 37, and 38 while Jalalian displays a path or link (Fig. 7) to connect the icons for the respective device, but Jalalian is not explicitly shown that the link can be displayed in different form. However, Ahearn which is a related art with Jalalian discloses a method and apparatus for viewing a configuration of a computer network further

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includes different appearance of a communication path or link and color-coded status of an object icon associated to a specific task (see column 5, lines 39-57, column 8, lines 15-55, Fig. 8).

Similarly, Regarding claims 12, 13, 19, 20, 26, 27, 35, 39, 40, and 43 while Jalalian describes that user can query for a resource device for its availability in the network, but fails to show the resource device availability is displayed in a different form than others if the driver is present. However, again, Ahearn discloses various color-coded status of each object, such as *green or light-green* to suggest *ok* and *Red* to suggest an error or no connection can be made or to indicate the device is temporally unusable (column 8, lines 15-54). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to incorporate the path or connection lines of Jalalian with color-coded status of Ahearn because user will be able to easily identify a connection and it will enhance the network resource management system in monitoring the system for a troubleshooting.

Allowable Subject Matter

10. Claim 42 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

11. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: the prior art of records discloses a plurality of resource icons, such as printer icon and scanner icon, the prior art processing unit (CPU) could identify the installed peripherals as input or output

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device and displays these devices as icons, whereas, in the present invention, not only identifying a device as input or output device during installation, but also it "displays a mark indicating such a fact nearby the icon corresponding to the device capable of inputting or outputting the color image." Thus, in contrast to the prior art of record, the claim of the present invention include recitation not taught or suggested by the prior art of record, whether considered alone or in any permissible combination.

Conclusion

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to *Tadesse Hailu*, whose telephone number is (703) 306-2799. The Examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 10:00 - 8:30 ET. If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, *John Cabeca*, can be reached at (703) 308-3116 Art Unit 2173 CPK 2-4A51.

13. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Tadesse Hailu 9/27/2002


RAYMOND J. BAYERL
PRIMARY EXAMINER
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